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0223955.6 15 October 2002 (15.10.2002) GB(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V. [NL/NL]**; Groenewoudseweg 1, NL-5621 BA Eindhoven (NL).

(72) Inventors; and

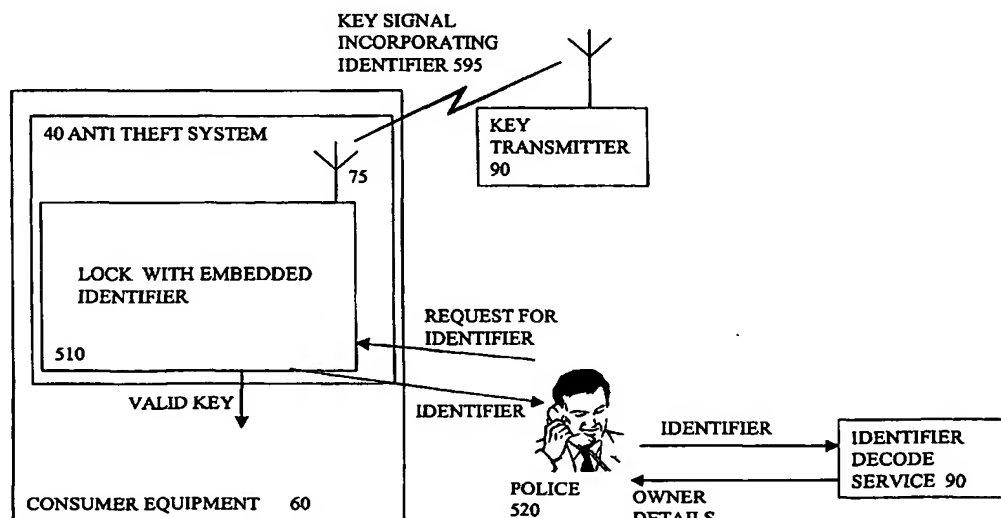
(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **MARSHALL, Christopher, B. [GB/GB]**; c/o Philips Intellectual Property & Standards, Cross Oak Lane, Redhill, Surrey RH1 5HA (GB). **CHAMPSAUR, Marc, H., J. [FR/FR]**; c/o Philips Intellectual Property & Standards, Cross Oak Lane, Redhill, Surrey RH1 5HA (GB). **HARLASHKIN, Igor, A. [RU/RU]**; c/o Philips Intellectual Property &Standards, Cross Oak Lane, Redhill, Surrey RH1 5HA (GB). **RIMMINGTON, Andrew, K. [GB/GB]**; c/o Philips Intellectual Property & Standards, Cross Oak Lane, Redhill, Surrey RH1 5HA (GB). **WALBROU, Pascal, R., M. [FR/FR]**; c/o Philips Intellectual Property & Standards, Cross Oak Lane, Redhill, Surrey RH1 5HA (GB).(74) Agent: **WHITE, Andrew**; Philips Intellectual Property & Standards, Cross Oak Lane, Redhill, Surrey RH1 5HA (GB).

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(54) Title: WIRELESS SECURITY BEACON FOR CONSUMER EQUIPMENT



(57) Abstract: A security system for consumer equipment has a lock for preventing use of the equipment, and broadcasts a beacon signal indicating stolen status, if the lock does not receive a valid key signal over a wireless link. The beacon signal can help police identify stolen goods, and makes mere possession of stolen goods more risky and so deters theft. The lock serves to make the equipment useless or very expensive to make useful, once stolen. Little or no change of behaviour by users is needed. The beacon can be passive, in snooze state to save power, with periodic listening for an interrogating (police) radio, which causes it to wake up and transmit. The system can securely store, and optionally broadcast, a secure identifier which is traceable to an owner of the equipment, to aid recovery and conviction. Tamper resisting measures can be included.

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